

# Lyme Disease Surveillance in Massachusetts, 2008

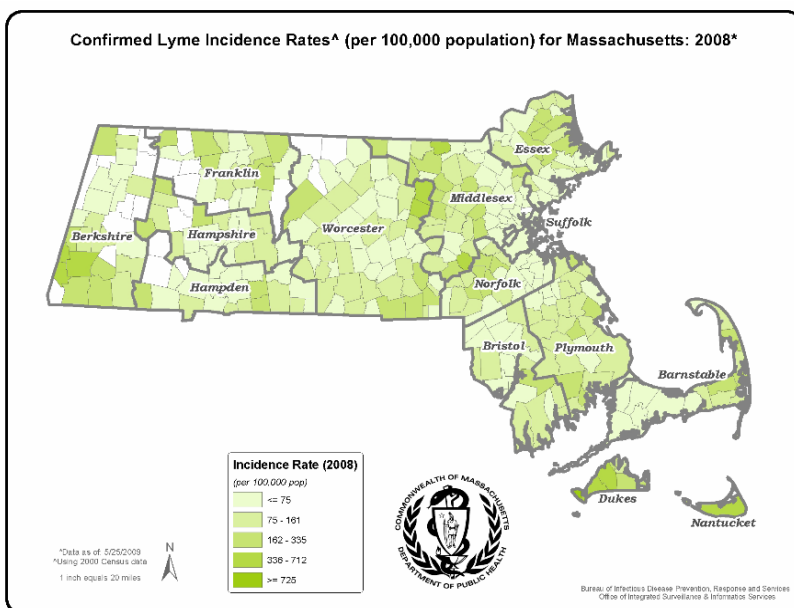
## Massachusetts Department of Public Health

### 2008 Surveillance Highlights

- 3,946 confirmed Lyme disease cases were reported in MA in 2008, representing a 10.4% increase statewide over the number of cases reported in 2007.
- Most counties also reported increased incidence rates of Lyme disease in 2008 compared with 2007. Exceptions to this were Barnstable, Dukes, Essex and Nantucket counties.
- The majority of confirmed cases had onsets in June, July and August.
- The highest incidence was among children aged 5-14 years and adults aged 55-69 years.
- 26% of confirmed cases did not report an EM rash.

The map below illustrates Lyme disease incidence rates per 100,000 by city and town in Massachusetts in 2008. The darker the shading, the higher the incidence. Lyme disease is considered endemic in all of Massachusetts.

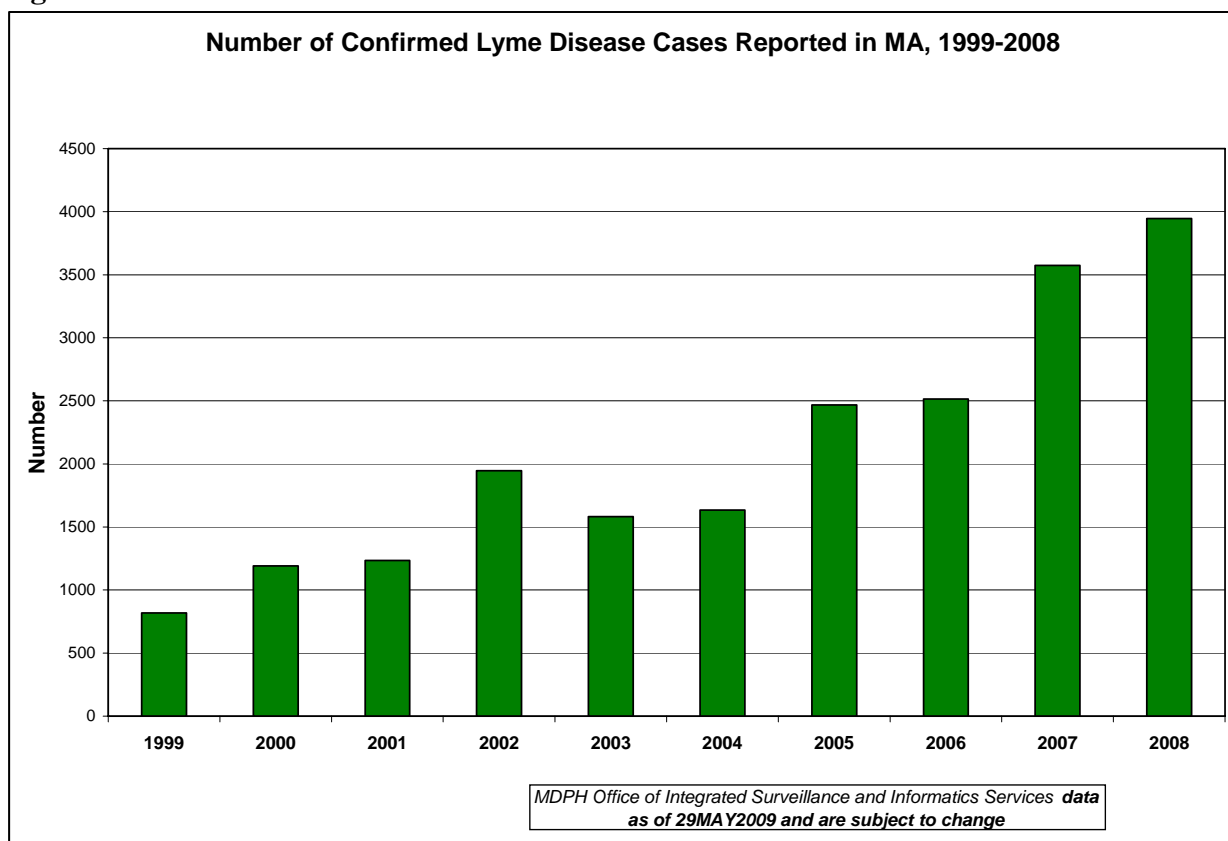
Areas of highest incidence include Cape Cod and southeastern Massachusetts, the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, areas north of Boston in Essex county, towns along the upper Middlesex and Worcester county border (the Metrowest), along the Quabbin Reservoir watershed and Connecticut River Valley, and in southern Berkshire county.



County*	2008 Confirmed Cases (#)	2008 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Barnstable	160	72
Berkshire	128	95
Bristol	262	49
Dukes	47	314
Essex	362	50
Franklin	52	73
Hampden	175	38
Hampshire	102	67
Middlesex	734	50
Nantucket	43	452
Norfolk	439	68
Plymouth	395	84
Suffolk	60	9
Worcester	493	66
<b>State Total</b>	<b>3,946</b>	<b>62</b>

\* County was unknown for 494 cases

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

